Export of Petroleum Products

873. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the export of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details of the products, their prices and the countries to whom the same have been decided to be exported; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange which is likely to be earned from the export of these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) India is a net importer of petroleum. In the light of growing demand of petroleum products, more than doubling of refining capacity during 9th plan period and the indigenous production of crude oil not keeping pace with the same, incremental demand would have to be met primarily by importing crude oil. Petroleum products would be imported/exported to the extent of the gap in production and demand of individual products. However, Government have initiated steps to take care of the surplus products, if any, in view of increase in domestic refining capacity. The export of Naphtha, MS, HSD and ATF has since been decanalised.

Regulatory Authority for Petroleum Sector

874. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up regulatory authority for petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to change pricing mechanism of petroleum sector from present administered prices; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Government have